

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** August 1, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on July 27, 2001

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** David A. Ullrich  
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Cleanup Progress and Redevelopment Plans, Former Gulf Oil Refinery, Toledo Ohio**

On July 12, 2001, representatives from Chevron Corporation, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) met to discuss cleanup progress and redevelopment plans for the former 220-acre Gulf Oil Refinery in Toledo, Ohio. Elements of what would become the refinery began operations in 1850. The refinery, never permitted under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), closed in 1980. To date, Chevron has spent nearly \$20 million on over 1000 soil borings, 4000 analytical samples, the excavation and removal of nearly 10,000 tons of hazardous waste, and the construction of nearly 4000 linear feet of slurry wall and french drain recovery systems. An additional 70,000 tons of sludges are being stabilized and contained on site and over 16 miles of sewer and pipe line will have been cleaned and/or removed. All structures have been demolished and removed.

Chevron has already sold 13 acres. By Fall 2001, they will begin negotiations on at least two Operation and Maintenance Agreements with Ohio EPA for the long-term containment and monitoring systems in place. Ten million gallons of groundwater have already been treated. Chevron will also be seeking two covenants-not-to-sue from Ohio EPA for which they also wish U.S.

EPA concurrence. Chevron is planning on selling the remaining 207 acres in either two or three transactions. The company has conducted a number of facility tours and meetings for the local community, and City of Toledo and State officials. There is strong local support for the continued use of the property in its current industrial setting.

Contact: Laura Ripley (312-886-6040)

### **Spill Inspection, Des Plaines River, Elwood, Illinois**

On July 23 and 26, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Benning conducted follow-up inspections along the Des Plaines River in Elwood, Illinois, due to an oil release at the Stepan Company which occurred July 19, 2001. Operational error at the plant allowed the release of approximately 12,500 gallons of alkylbenzene during the unloading of rail tank cars. The material entered the plant's storm water system, flowed off site into an unnamed drainage ditch and discharged into the Des Plaines River at Treat Island. The majority of the oil was released to the river, as the facility did not discover the release for over 24 hours. Upon discovery of the release, Stepan took immediate action, mobilizing a contractor. Booms were deployed along the Des Plaines River. Commercial areas impacted down river, including two salvage yards and a marina, were cleaned up by June 25, 2001. The facility is currently working on the drainage ditches on and off site, flushing with water and treating the contaminated water at their wastewater treatment plant. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing the response action, and U.S. EPA will be investigating the release due to possible Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) violations.

Contact Bradley Benning (312-353-7613)

## **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

### **Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) Workshop, Dearborn Hills, Michigan**

On June 13, 2001, Region 5 Brownfields staff, along with Contracts and Assistance Agreement staff, conducted a one day Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) workshop for Michigan pilot communities and consultants. Deborah DeLuca of Hennepin County, and Barbara Bassuener from U.S. EPA Headquarters were invited speakers. The workshop provided an overview of the

BCRLF program and how it works; a case study from a recently successful pilot loan (Hennepin County); another case study from Wayne County on how potential loans can "fall through;" and, an open discussion. Nine communities, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and several consultants were in attendance. The workshop was held in the clubhouse at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. During the workshop, Barbara Bassuener made an announcement that Hennepin County had been selected to receive a Supplemental BCRLF grant.

Contact: Alan Baumann (312-886-3058)

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)  
Presentation, Chicago, Illinois**

On July 25, 2001, James Entzminger, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, gave an overview presentation on the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) to about 30 people. This presentation was part of a three-day environmental regulation awareness course offered by Executive Enterprise Institute, New Rochelle, New York. This course was held at the Gleacher Center, Chicago, Illinois. The other environmental regulations discussed at the meeting were Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Superfund. They also discussed Environmental Auditing and Inspections.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Teleconference Participation, Landview Planning Meeting,  
Washington, D.C.**

On July 26, 2001, John Elkmann, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, participated by teleconference in the monthly Landview Planning meeting held in Washington, D.C. Landview 5 will be published in November 2001, and will contain census data from State boundary levels to individual census blocks. Mr. Elkmann is contributing to both the tutorial that will accompany the release and to the application help files.

Contact: John Elkmann (312-353-8196)

**Risk Management Program Meeting, Washington, D.C.**

From July 16-18, 2001, Mark Horwitz, Bob Mayhugh, and Emil Kogan of the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention attended the Risk Management Program Implementing Agency Meeting

at U.S. EPA Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues and policies affecting the Risk Management Planning (RMP) program, as well as share insight on actions that can support and strengthen the program. The following issues, as well as others, were discussed: compliance issues, Federal oversight of delegated programs, enforcement, and outreach.

On July 19, 2001, the Chemical Emergency Preparedness & Prevention Office (CEPPO) U.S. EPA Headquarters, and Regional managers and staff held their Chemical Emergency Preparedness & Prevention (CEPP) program meeting. This meeting included a detailed discussion of the CEPP budget and resource allocations. An extensive discussion on the state of CEPP also took place. During this session, the direction that the CEPP should take in the future, including CEPP's function in Counter Terrorism issues, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), RMP, outreach, and program integration were discussed. An after-meeting actions list is being developed and will be distributed to the Regions by U.S. EPA Headquarters.

Contacts: Mark Horwitz (312-353-9045)  
Robert Mayhugh (312-886-5929)

### **Biological Weapons Tabletop Exercise, Grand Rapids, Michigan**

On July 24, 2001, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Len Zintak and Mike Harris participated in a Biological Tabletop Exercise in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) sponsored exercise was part of the Domestic Preparedness Program that DOJ has recently taken over from the Department of Defense. The purpose of the Domestic Preparedness Program is to provide chemical, biological, and radiological terrorism response training to the 120 largest Cities across the Country. Exercise participants included the U.S. EPA, the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan Emergency Management, Michigan State Police, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Contacts: Len Zintak (312-886-4246)  
Mike Harris (312-886-0760)

## **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

### **Service Recognition (Ross Powers and Mike Gifford), Redevelopment Successes, Muskegon Heights and Jackson County, Michigan**

Recent letters from Muskegon Heights and Jackson County, Michigan praised the efforts of Ross Powers and Mike Gifford respectively for redevelopment successes in each. Jackson credited the Agency's efforts in general and Mike's individually as significant in their effort to secure the \$113 million Consumers Energy expansion project. Ross Powers was applauded for his efforts in the cleanup and near-term redevelopment of a 12-acre site in Muskegon Heights' central business district.

Currently, 45 cleanup and redevelopment projects are either underway or completed in Region 5 with an estimated value of nearly \$300 million and with the creation of nearly 900 new jobs.

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